

Appl. No. Serial No. 10/618,198
Amendment dated April 7, 2005
Reply to Office action of March 31, 2005

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action of March 31, 2005. By this Amendment, claims 1-20 are currently in the application.

In the Office Action claims 1-14 were allowed. Applicant acknowledges and appreciates this action by the U.S. Patent Office.

Further in the Office Action, claims 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Stockel, U.S. Patent No. 4,962,886; while claim 17 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stockel in view of Hoffmeister, U.S. Patent No. 3,637,050.

Applicant believes that the claims as originally presented, patentably distinguish over the cited references. For example, claim 15 recites that the valve body includes an internal valve. Applicant cannot identify such valve in either of the cited references. If anything, Stockel includes opposing drive shafts separately connected to counter rotating plates 20 and 22, however this is certainly not a "valve" as in the present invention. There are other significant differences between the present invention and the cited references, most notably that the cited references do not disclose or suggest a receptacle which can be received in helical channels of a nozzle to secure the nozzle to the receptacle.

Nevertheless, to facilitate allowance of these claims, Applicant has herewith made certain changes to claims 15-17 and added new claims 18-20, to further bring out the patentable differences between the present invention and the cited references. Claim 15,

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for example, brings out that the internal valve is a poppet valve within the valve body. Again, such a valve is not disclosed or suggested in the cited references. The bearings are now also described as being provided in "discrete circumferential increments around" an interior surface of the collar. Again, this allows the collar to be received in helical channels of the nozzle. There is nothing in the cited references which disclose or suggest these features of the present invention.

Claim 16 now also further describes the structure of the bearings, and that they comprise an annular roller rotatably supported on a post affixed to the inner interior surface of the collar. The Examiner has identified bearings 30 in the Stockel reference which he apparently believes meets the "bearings" limitation of the claims, however, these bearings are unlike the present invention, and appear to show standard bearing rings to support the rotation of drive shaft 20A. This is unlike the bearings defined in claim 16 of the present invention.

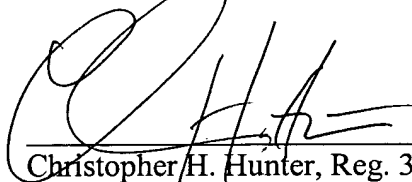
New claims 18 and 19 also bring out further aspects of the present invention, namely the flow openings provided in the annular collar (claim 18); and the vent openings provided in the valve body (claim 19). These likewise are not shown or described in the cited references.

Finally, new claim 20 brings out the structure of the poppet valve, including a valve seat and valve head spring-biased against the valve seat and accessible externally of the valve body by the nozzle when the nozzle is secured to the receptacle. This is likewise not shown or described in the cited art.

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In light of the above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 15-20 likewise define over the art, and should be in condition for allowance. Prompt notice to that effect is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner continue to believe otherwise, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone, should the Examiner believe it would result in the furtherance of this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CH Hunter', is written over a horizontal line.

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